

OCTOBER 13-19

"On Earth As It Is In Heaven" Prayers of Intercession

MONDAY 10/13

GENESIS 18:16-33

Abraham's conversation with God about the fate of the city of Sodom reveals the compassionate heart of intercession. Abraham stood before God not only as a worshiper but also as an advocate for others. He appealed to God's justice and mercy, asking him to spare the city if even a small number of righteous people could be found there. This passage reminds us that intercession is not about changing God's will, but aligning our hearts with God's desire for mercy and righteousness. When we intercede, we reflect God's own concern for the lost and participate in his redemptive work in the world.

- 1. What does Abraham's persistence in prayer teach you about the nature of intercession?
- 2. When have you hesitated to pray boldly for others, and what held you back?

TUESDAY 10/14

EXODUS 32:9-14

When Israel turned away from God to worship the golden calf, Moses stepped into the breach and pleaded for God's mercy. Instead of agreeing with God's righteous anger, Moses reminded God of his covenant promises and compassion. God responded to Moses' intercession by sparing the people from destruction. Intercession flows from love: love for God's honor and love for those who have fallen short. Our prayers on behalf of others should not be driven by frustration or duty but by a sincere desire to see God's mercy triumph over judgment.

- 1. What does this passage suggest to you about the nature of God's character when you consider God's response to Moses?
- 2. Who are some people that you want to stand in the gap for, those who are far from God who need mercy more than judgement?

WEDNESDAY 10/15

JOHN 17:9-26

In Jesus' prayer for his disciples and for all who would believe through them, we see the perfect example of intercession. Jesus prays for protection, unity, holiness, and the revelation of God's love among his followers. His prayer is not limited to His immediate circle but extends across generations to include us today. Intercession, then, is an act of love that connects heaven and earth. When we pray for others as Jesus did, we participate in his ongoing work of forming a people who reflect God's glory in the world.

- 1. What strikes you the most about the focus on Jesus' prayer?
- 2. How can you pray more intentionally for the spiritual growth and unity of all believers, especially those you know and care about?

After being threatened for proclaiming the gospel, the early believers gathered to pray, not for safety, but for boldness. Their prayer was united, Scripture-filled, and focused on God's sovereignty. They didn't ask God to remove the opposition, but to empower them to keep speaking truth with courage. God answered by shaking the place and filling them with the Holy Spirit. This moment reminds us that intercession often calls us to stand firm for others in faith and mission, trusting that God's power is greater than any earthly resistance.

- 1. How can praying for others strengthen your own faith and courage?
- 2. What are some areas of your life of faith you can ask the Holy Spirit to empower you for boldness?

FRIDAY 10/17

PSALM 20

This psalm is a prayer of intercession for a king going into battle. It is a cry for God's protection, strength, and success according to God's will. The psalmist prays not for personal gain but for the victory of God's purposes through his anointed one. In a similar way, intercession invites us to pray for others who are "in the fight," asking God to strengthen them, answer their cries, and fulfill his plans through their lives. Our prayers for others can become a powerful act of partnership in God's work and a source of encouragement in their struggle.

- 1. What does it mean to you to pray for someone's success in light of God's will rather than their (or your) personal ambition?
- 2. Who in your life needs prayers for strength and for victory?

SATURDAY/ SUNDAY 10/18-19

MATTHEW 6:9-13 EPHESIANS 6:18-20

Paul's call to "pray in the Spirit on all occasions" and Jesus' model prayer together reveal the heart of true intercession. Prayer is both a spiritual weapon and a shared expression of dependence on God. When we pray as Jesus taught, "our Father," "give us," "forgive us," "deliver us," we remember that our prayers are not merely personal requests but petitions for the whole body of Christ. Intercession keeps us mindful that we are part of God's larger story and mission. Paul's request for boldness in proclaiming the gospel and Jesus' call to seek the Father's will above our own remind us that intercession aligns our hearts with God's purposes and empowers us to live them out. Praying for others and with others becomes a way of joining God in his redemptive work in the world.

1. How does praying using plural words like "our" and "us" shape your understanding of prayer as an act of intercession rather than isolation?

2. Why do you think Paul specifically asked for prayer for courage in sharing the gospel, and how might that guide your own prayers?

VERSE OF THE WEEK

"And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people."

(Ephesians 6:18)